

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

Open Meeting of the Commission, University of Maryland, 5 July 1990

Present: Prof Dr O. Kraus (President) in the Chair: Commissioners Bock, Cogger, Corliss, Heppell, Lehtinen, Ride, Savage, Schuster and Thompson. Commission Secretariat: Dr Tubbs (Executive Secretary), Mrs Gentry and Mr Smith. Dr R. Bieler, Dr D. Goujet, Miss C. Hine, Dr J.H. Kirkbride, Dr M. Kraus, Miss J. McIntosh, Dr P. Mikkelsen, Dr J. Reveal, Dr G. Rosenberg, Professor J.R.P. Ross and Dr C.W. Sabrosky.

1. The President opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He explained that the aim of the meeting was to explain the Commission's policy and the way in which it operated, and to seek the views of zoologists present. The Commission was now working towards a fourth edition of the Code. A draft would be prepared for consideration by the Section of Zoological Nomenclature and for comment by zoologists, and an input from the user community at this stage would be of great value.

2. The President summarised the deliberations of the Commission in session on 4 July, referring particularly to (a) the intention to develop a register of names in use, starting with generic names, (b) discussions that had taken place on the value of a list of names of taxa at ranks higher than family-group, and (c) the continued use of publication as a primary criterion of availability. These issues are spelled out in the Minutes of the General Session of the Commission. The President believed that the Commission had achieved a measure of stability in zoological nomenclature, but he stressed that additional funding was essential to enable new activities to be implemented.

3. Dr Reveal, speaking as Co-President of ICSEB IV, welcomed the Commission's acceptance of ICSEB as a forum for meetings with the zoological community, since it was more representative of working taxonomists than meetings of the General Assembly of IUBS. He recognised that, for constitutional reasons, the Commission operated through IUBS.

4. Dr Tubbs outlined the role of the Commission's Secretariat based at the Natural History Museum, London. He described the procedure whereby applications received from zoologists were prepared for publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, voted upon by the Commission and the outcome published in an Opinion. Additionally, the Secretariat fulfilled an important advisory function.

5. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on major policy issues at present under consideration for the next edition of the Code. At the President's invitation, Dr Ride (former President of the Commission and Chairman of the Editorial Committee for the 3rd Edition of the Code) guided the meeting. He explained that comments received on the present edition, and proposals that had been made for emendations, fell into six main areas requiring decisions on policy. These areas were Availability, Priority, Language, Homonymy, Orthography and Types. Each area was then considered in turn.

6. Availability

(a) *Publication (Article 8)* Modern publishing techniques had exacerbated the difficulties that could arise when publication *per se* resulted in destabilising names or nomenclatural acts automatically entering zoological nomenclature. The scale of such work could now be so great that a review of policy was warranted. One possible solution would be to develop a system whereby names made available under the existing criteria would then need to be registered in a single journal, as in bacterial nomenclature. Another solution could be to restrict publication of new names to a designated list of journals and book publishers with approved standards of refereeing and peer review; such works would have to be registered for nomenclatural purposes. There was overwhelming support for the need to extend the present criteria for availability by some form of registration. The Commission was asked to explore options. A majority favoured registration of works in preference to a register of new names. The meeting also considered whether it would be desirable to require, henceforth, all formal descriptions purporting to define nominal taxa to be in one of the languages of the Code, such languages to be decided. The proposal was supported.

(b) *Designation of Types and Descriptions (Article 13)* There was strong support for a requirement that the establishment of a species-group name must in future require the explicit designation of type specimen(s). Such holotypes or syntypes should be labelled and deposited in a publicly accessible collection, as is now the case for neotypes, unless there were circumstances when this requirement could not be met, e.g. for specimens that for physical or legal reasons could not be preserved. A majority also favoured retention of the requirement that a new family-group name should be accompanied by a description of the taxon to which it applied rather than be made available merely by being a new name based upon the name of an included genus.

7. Priority (Article 23b)

(a) *Species-Group Names* This Article placed on a worker wishing to secure current general usage of a junior name the onus to apply to the Commission for its conservation despite the fact that the introduction of forgotten and destabilizing names is contrary to the Principle of Priority as stated in the Code. It would be advantageous to require a worker wishing to introduce a forgotten senior synonym replacing a junior synonym in current use to justify that action. The meeting accepted unanimously that the requirement to apply to the Commission for the conservation of a junior synonym in use should be removed from Article 23 and that the different components relevant to the conservation of such names currently in Articles 23, 79 and 80 be brought together in the Code.

(b) *Family-Group Names* The application of the Principle of Priority to family-group names was proving to be destabilizing and laborious. It raised problems that could best be dealt with by the development of registers of family-group names that would be conserved against earlier names. It was agreed that the Commission should develop this option.

8. Language (Article 11)

(a) *Family-Group Names* The Code's insistence on classical grammar created problems in the formation of the stem of family-group names. The meeting agreed unanimously that, while the stem of family-group names should be based on classical

grammar, the Code should permit departure when established usage would be upset by emendation. There was no support for disturbing current usage either by reverting to original orthography or by applying strict rules of classical grammar. It was agreed that the Code should contain its own rules of orthography that would make grammatical arguments redundant.

(b) *Agreement of Gender* The meeting explored the concept of abandoning the requirements of Latin grammar in the agreement of an adjectival specific name with the gender of the genus with which it was combined. This could be achieved by considering either that all genera were of one gender, or that the original spelling of the specific name would be preserved on recombination. The meeting was evenly divided between those favouring and those against abandoning agreement in gender. If gender agreement was abandoned, a decision would have to be made whether adjectival specific names would be spelled (a) as in most common current usage, (b) as originally published, or (c) as converted to a single gender form. The meeting did not have a consensus view on the alternatives.

9. *Homonymy (Article 55)* In many instances homonymy in family-group names is caused by the similarity (but not identity) of the names of their type genera. It had been suggested that such homonymy could be permitted when confusion was unlikely to be caused. However, the view of the meeting was strongly that increased use of data bases made it more important than hitherto to avoid homonymy in family-group names, even when occurring in widely different animal groups.

10. *Orthography*

(a) *Use of the Termination -i or -ii (and Gender Equivalents) in Specific Names (Article 31a)* The Code requires use of the original termination of specific names formed as nouns in the genitive case from personal names unless the name was otherwise incorrectly formed; this requirement to maintain original orthography was widely held to be unnecessarily pedantic. There was no support in the meeting for maintaining the requirement as it stood; a few members would prefer to require the use of a single '-i' termination for all names formed from those of male persons (e.g. *smithi*, *salvadorii*), but a considerable majority favoured treating -i and -ii as being permissible alternatives with users having freedom of choice between them.

(b) *Spellings Selected by the First Reviser (Article 24)* The Principle of the First Reviser sometimes generated problems, as, for example, when a first reviser action had been overlooked. One possibility would be to apply page or line priority to the use of simultaneously published names, but such an option received no support from members who preferred to maintain the Code as it stood. It was suggested that it might be advantageous for this Article to be amplified so that, when an author of simultaneously published names later considered synonyms subsequently used only one of those names, that author would be accepted as first reviser, unless another author had already made a choice between them and had thereby become the first reviser.

11. *Types*

(a) *Type Specimens* The meeting reiterated the view (para. 6b above) that type specimens must be designated and, as the property of science, be publicly accessible.

(b) *Invalidity of Type Genera (Articles 39, 40)* At present when the name of a type genus is found to be invalid as a junior homonym the family-group name must be

replaced by the next oldest synonym. There was unanimous agreement that the taxonomic usage should be maintained by requiring it to be replaced by the name based on the valid name of the type genus. It was also agreed unanimously that continuity of a family-group name in general usage should be maintained as in the current Code, even if based on a type genus itself rejected as a junior synonym.

(c) *Misidentification of Type Genera and Species (Articles 41, 65, 70)* Articles 41 and 65 of the Code required that, if stability and continuity in the meaning of a family-group name were threatened by the discovery that its type genus was based on a misidentified type species, or by the discovery of an overlooked type fixation, the case was to be referred to the Commission for a ruling. Similarly, Article 70 requires that cases of misidentified type species of genera must be referred to the Commission. The need to involve the Commission in all such cases was questioned. If the current provision was to be replaced by an automatic provision, options would be to accept the nominal type genus or species as cited, even though considered to be misidentified, or to adopt as type the nominal taxon considered to have been actually involved. No consensus was reached and the Commission was asked to give the matter further consideration.

(d) *Action by the Commission to Set Aside Type Specimens to Clarify Nomina Dubia (Recommendation 75E)* The present position was that the Commission was required to use its plenary powers to suppress the type status of an existing type specimen and to designate a neotype when this was needed to clarify a nomen dubium. It was agreed that there could be advantage if the Commission's involvement in such cases did not need recourse to the plenary powers.

12. *Restructuring the Code*

The 3rd Edition of the Code had maintained the arrangement of earlier editions. It was agreed that, in the next edition of the Code, there was a need to bring together subjects that in the present edition were widely separated, for example in the case of protecting names in use against unused senior synonyms Articles 23b, 79c and 80c could be unified (see 7a above).

13. *Thanks to Participants*

In closing the meeting the President expressed his thanks to Dr Ride who had guided the discussion on major policy issues relating to the next edition of the Code and to all those present who had helped in the development of these policies. He said that the views of the meeting were of great help to the Commission and would be considered further in the process of developing a 4th Edition of the Code.